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## **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

### **Mono and Inyo Local Transportation Commissions**

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

**Monday, October 16, 2006, 9:30 a.m.**

**Town / County Conference Room**

**Mammoth Lakes, California**

## **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Commissioners Present**

Bob Kimball, Inyo LTC  
Doug Thompson, Inyo LTC  
Ted Williams, Inyo LTC  
Kathryn Henderson, Bishop City Council  
Richard Cervantes, Inyo LTC  
Skip Harvey, Chair Mono LTC  
Hap Hazard, Vice Chair Mono LTC  
Vikki Bauer, Supervisor Mono County  
John Eastman, Councilman Town Mammoth  
Byng Hunt, Supervisor Mono County

#### **Staff Present**

Scott Burns, Co- Director LTC  
Ron Chegwiddden, Inyo LTC  
Bill Manning, Co-Director LTC  
Dave Wilbrecht, Mono County CAO  
Gerry LeFrancois, Mono County Planner  
Rob Clark, Manager Town of Mammoth Lakes  
Linda Baffrey, Secretary Inyo LTC  
Lynetta Fuerst, Secretary Mono LTC

#### **Caltrans**

Brad Mettam  
Bryan Winzenread  
Forest Becket  
Gayle Rosander

#### **Others**

Monicka Watterson, Inyo Mono Transit  
Jill Ellis, Inyo Mono Transit  
Nancy Erhardt, USFS  
Marty Hornick, USFS

*Agenda items may not have been taken in order.*

**The joint meeting was called to order by Chair Harvey at 9:35 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**

1. WELCOME AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Harvey welcomed the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission. Chair Bob Kimball commented the Inyo County LTC could not conduct business as a Commission out of Inyo County. No public comment was heard.

2. TRANSIT

a. Inyo Mono Transit

1. Overview of Inyo / Mono Transit System

Ms. Watterson presented booklets to all Commissioners which described the successful regional transit program. She highlighted the growth the transit program has experienced since the mid 1980's from its inception with IMAAA (Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging) and only three buses. Currently Inyo Mono Transit has a fleet of 25 buses, 50 drivers and services 156 thousand riders a year. Farebox is a direct measurement of the system's efficiency and IMT overall farebox is above standard. There has been no fare increases since 1977. The CREST route going south to Ridgecrest and north to Reno has been very well used with high ridership.

2. Discussion of joint funding for the Bishop to Mammoth bus service

Commissioner Eastman commented on the regional service benefiting both counties. Both Inyo and Mono County Commissioners discussed joint funding for Bishop to Mammoth service. Commissioner Kimball stated the funding issue would be considered at their next meeting. It was noted that some businesses might be interested in helping to pay for the routes. Presently from the advertising on the buses, IMT receives about \$ 12,000 in revenue.

3. Verbal update on Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Joint Powers Agreement

Mr. Clark addressed the Commission on the JPA. The COG (Council of Governments) is presently serving as the policy group. The first meeting of the working group is set for November 17, 2006. The group is hoping to be set up and functioning on April 1, 2007. The Local Transportation Commission's role won't be changing with the JPA and will continue to hold Unmet Needs Hearings.

b. YARTS- Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System update

Commissioner Bauer updated the LTC on YARTS. She is in the process of sending out 50 letters inviting Fresno, Tuolumne, and Madera counties plus Council of Governments in the immediate area of Yosemite to participate and join YARTS. Funding has become critical this year with the closure of Hwy 140. Caltrans has been able to open Hwy 140 with a temporary bridge, unfortunately the YARTS buses are over the 23 foot limit. As transportation in the Eastern Sierra becomes more regional, Commissioner Bauer feels YARTS would possibly interface with the JPA. To learn more visit the website at [www.YARTS.com](http://www.YARTS.com).

3. **INYO NATIONAL FOREST ROUTE DESIGNATION PROCESS UPDATE**  
Marty Hornick and Nancy Erhardt from the USFS gave a power point presentation regarding the Inyo National Forest Route Designation process. Many communities have already held public meetings from Ridgecrest north. Ultimately, the Forest Service will designate a transportation system on every national forest in the country. The route designation process consists of five major steps, which will be finalized in a motor vehicle use map. Inyo National Forest is presently on step 3, gathering public input to develop a proposed transportation system. The goal is to have the vehicle use map completed by September 2008. There are CD's available and their website is [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) for more information including meeting updates and maps.
4. **EASTERN CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**
  - a. Update on MOU State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects  
Mr. LeFrancois explained the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Projects) MOU's with Inyo, Kern COG and Sanbag. After the first of the year the MOU's should be memorialized with each county through the LTC. Commissioner Kimball thanked the Mono County LTC for their participation in the Black Rock project, which should begin construction in 2007.
  - b. Blueprint Transportation Grant  
Mr. Burns noted that through the Eastern California Transportation Planning Partners the LTC has reapplied for a grant seeking grant planning funds related to the 395 corridor.
5. **CALTRANS**
  - a. Update on activities in Inyo / Mono Counties  
Mr. Mettam presented the Commissioners with a handout listing the current county projects. The Mono Lake guardrail should be completed the end of November. The two changeable message signs (CMS) Crowley Lake and Lee Vining are in but need state work before activation.
  - b. 511 system presentation  
Mr. Mettam updated the LTC on the progress of the 511 traveler information number. In California the Bay Area and northern California are operational. Southern California is due to be operating in 2007. The LTC will have to decide what services they want to make available on the 511 system and if we want to join with the central valley, southern California, or even Nevada. How much the system provides determines the cost. SACOG has volunteered to take on Central California and the Eastern Sierra, but that is not our market.
  - c. Update and discussion on MOU projects and future funding possibilities  
Mr. Mettam highlighted the MOU projects and their status. Caltrans with both LTCs wanted to find a way to maximize availability of state funds. By using MOUs between the counties a regional approach developed. It showed a commitment by the agencies for the regional corridor. He continued to explain the funding available and possibilities if the bond passes in the election. One highlight should the bond measure pass we may have funds available for the Olancho-Cartago four-lane. Mr. Mettam emphasized if the bond passes in November, then

guidelines would be issued in December, submittals in January and decisions in March on what districts would receive funds. Both Inyo and Mono LTC need to be thinking about what projects they want to move forward. The counties will be on a five year timeline to schedule and complete projects.

d. Caltrans Local Development / Intergovernmental Review program

Ms. Rosander, coordinator for local development, gave an overview of the Intergovernmental Review program. Intergovernmental review affords each agency an opportunity to review another agencies project and comment. She noted there is a good working relationship and communication with both counties and agencies in the area. District 9 projects have been 100% timely delivered. For additional information on projects, go to current projects on the District 9 website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov).

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. ADJOURN

The joint meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m. by Chair Harvey.